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**TESTIMONY – VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 19, 2013**

Good afternoon Senator Leone, Representative Hennessy and distinguished members of the Veterans' Affairs committee.

My name is Glenn Terlecki and I am the President of the Connecticut Police and Fire Union. Our Union represents approximately 900 State employees in firefighting and law enforcement professions. I am here today to speak in favor of:

Proposed Bill No. 6255

"AN ACT CONCERNING RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTIONS REPAID BY STATE EMPLOYEES WHO ARE GRANTED MILITARY LEAVE TO PERFORM NATIONAL GUARD DUTIES."

This proposed bill gives State employees who perform active duty service as members of the Connecticut National Guard the opportunity to purchase retirement credit for their time served by making contributions over a thirty-six month period rather than one lump sum payment.

The current language of CGS 5-180 addresses retirement contributions for members who were active during specific dates during war service or military service during a national emergency but excludes language for current members allowing for such repayments to be made over thirty-six months.

It goes without saying that these members are men and women whose dedication to this country is second-to-none. It is important that we make every attempt to relieve them of any undue financial burden. Depending on the number of years these members were activated, State retirement contributions can be a considerable lump sum expense. One of my members, who is a police officer in State service, has served two separate tours in Afghanistan and Iraq. He is now closing in on retirement and is facing potential repayments for retirement credit of upwards of eight thousand dollars.

Should this proposed bill pass, it will help him and others by spreading out the cost through thirty-six months of payroll deductions without any fiscal loss to the State of Connecticut.

I ask for your support in this bill and thank you for your time.

Connecticut Police and Fire Union

Glenn Terlecki, President